

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00426 050554Z

17

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SCCT-01

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R 050403Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5705

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS USUN 426

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AO, SL

SUBJ: SIERRA LEONE'S RECOGNITION OF MPLA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JAN 30 NOTE FROM SIERRA
LEONE MISSION (RECEIVED FEB 4) CONCERNING SIERRA LEONE'S
RECOGNITION OF MPLA:

QUOTE

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE TO
THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE PERMANENT
MISSIONS AND PERMAENT OBSERVERS ACCREDITED TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AND HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM THE LATTER THAT AS OF
WEDNESDAY, 28 JANUARY 1976, SIERRA LEONE HAS RECOGNIZED
THE MPLA AS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA.

PRIOR TO THE EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT MEETING OF THE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00426 050554Z

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WHICH WAS CONVENED TO

RESOLVE THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM, THE SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME WAS CONVINCED THAT BY NOT RECOGNIZING ANY ONE OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, NAMELY, MPLA, FNLA, AND UNITA, A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WILL EVENTUALLY EMERGE. IN KEEPING WITH THAT POLICY, SIERRA LEONE REFRAINED FROM RECOGNIZING ANY OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. BUT SINCE THE LAST EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT MEETING OF THE O.A.U. IN JANUARY, THE SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT HAS CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE ANGOLAN SITUATION AND HAS REALISED THAT DESPITE VARIOUS EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO REDUCE THE TENSION IN THE AREA THERE HAS UNFORTUNATELY BEEN AN ESCALATION OF THE CONFLICT, WHICH HAS LED TO THE LOSS OF THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT ANGOLAN LIVES.

THE SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE AVAILABLE FACTS AND IN THE LIGHT OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS, IS NOW CONVINCED THAT THE RECOGNITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MPLA WOULD NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTE IN NO SMALL WAY TO THE END OF MISERY AND SUFFERINGS IN ANGOLA BUT WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE AND DECISIVE ROLE IN FINDING A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM. IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT THE MPLA WILL VERY SOON BE ACCEPTED AS A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, WITHIN WHICH FRAMEWORK MEANINGFUL CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM COULD BE CONDUCTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY RESOLVED.

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE PERMANENT MISSIONS AND PERMANENT OBSERVERS ACCREDITED TO THE UNITED NATIONS THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

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